

HARPSWELL COMMUNITY GARDEN* at MITCHELL FIELD

2015 Member Guidelines

Member gardeners will tend their own plots. In addition, it is expected that they will assist in maintaining common areas. Members and their families are asked to donate *six hours over the course of the season*.

Our garden is first and foremost a community. Our rules are based on the simple principle – ‘be a good neighbor’ If you tend your plots well and contribute time to the maintenance of the common areas, you will help build and also benefit from our community.

Benefits

- Garden Plot sized 10x10 or 10x15 (up to two if available)
- Water
- Compost [bulk purchase each spring]
- Fencing around entire garden, play and orchard areas
- Access to communal garden shed, wheelbarrow and tools
- Compost area for garden waste disposal
- Skillins Discount of 20% on your purchases **IF** you tell the cashier before she/he starts ringing up (some exceptions and restrictions apply).

Plot Design and Seasonal Maintenance

- Plant tall crops at the south side or center of plot so not to shade neighbor's plots.
- Place structures (trellises, hoops, fences, supports) at least one foot inside plot edges
- Gardeners are responsible for tending their plot throughout the season, including weeding and harvesting
- Gardeners are responsible, with adjacent gardeners, for keeping the paths next to their plots weeded.
- Plots must be cleared of all summer structures and crops by October 30 or two weeks after first killing frost.
- All non-biodegradable mulch, weeds, dead plants, trellises and other structures must be removed at the end of the season.
- Returning gardeners may leave perennial plants and structures in place.

Community Volunteer Contribution

- A schedule of work days for the spring and fall tasks will be emailed to gardeners and volunteers and publicized on the Town website.
- You may contribute your 6 hours of volunteer work per season by maintaining paths, mowing the areas surrounding the garden, turning the compost, or taking on a special project.

*Harpowell Community Garden is a Town-sponsored recreational program administered by a group comprised of two members of the Mitchell Field Implementation Committee and other volunteers from the community at large, with funding support from the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust.

- Please record your volunteer hours in the log book on the table in Garden Shed or via email to Cristine Bachor, bachtoalaska@aol.com. It is important that we track these in-kind contributions. Similarly, if you contribute materials to the garden (tools, plant material, etc), please let Christine know the value.

Children and Pets

- We welcome and encourage children to participate in the garden community. if requested, we could have a special “Kid’s Plot” set aside in the garden.
- A picnic table, sandbox and play structure inside the garden fence are available to children attending the garden with their parents or other adults.
- Well-behaved pets on leash are allowed in the garden.

Organic Gardening Basics

- Non-organic fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides are not permitted. See Attachment A for list of acceptable/unacceptable products.
- Product labels must state that product is 100% organic.
- Smoking is not permitted in or near the garden. Tobacco mosaic virus, which can be carried on people’s hands, is a serious threat to tomatoes and other plants.
- Wood that is pressure treated, painted or treated in any other way is not permitted.
- Good prevention, monitoring and control practices will assist with pest and disease management. Please take infested and diseased plant material from the garden – do not compost them.

Water

- Our water is supplied from a dug well, with piping to bring it to the garden area. A battery powered pump fills the bait barrel reservoir. If you use water from this system, please refill the reservoir before you leave the garden area. Instructions for the using the battery powered pump are on it.
- A manual pump is also available for use at the well.

We have a portable watering system in the shed. Instructions for use are on the bulletin board. Contact Jane if the pumps need recharging.

Equipment

- The shed has a combo lock. Please be sure to lock the doors when you leave.
- Hand tools, wheelbarrows, watering cans, etc. are stored in the garden shed. Please clean soil and debris off the tools before you store them to prolong their life.
- A small first aid kit is located on the card table inside the door.
- Lawn mower – if you will be using the riding lawn mower, you will need to sign a waiver (at Town Office) and fill in the log which is under a special tab in the volunteer log book.

Trash

- Carry out anything that cannot be composted
- Meat, bread, dairy products and processed foods of any kind cannot be composted.

Forfeiture

- If these guidelines are not followed or a plot is unused, untended or neglected, the gardener will be notified and asked to correct the problem within two weeks.
- Failure to correct a problem means the possible forfeiture of the plot during the current garden season. In cases of forfeiture, fees will not be returned.
- If you are going to be away during the season or for other reasons are not able to tend your plot, we suggest you request a garden "buddy" to look after it for you, including harvesting.
- In past seasons, some plots were not harvested regularly. If you can not harvest your plot, please let us know so that the food can be picked and distributed to the Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Project. .

Communications

- Our core group of volunteers and part time Outreach and Volunteer coordinator are here to support the Community Garden in all respects, and to work with you to create a thriving Garden community and assure that you have a satisfying and enjoyable experience.
- Our primary modes of communication are through email and the [town website](#).
- To facilitate communications amongst you, we will distribute a plot map with everyone's name, email and phone number. If you wish to opt out from sharing this information, let Jane know.
- Members of our core group are responsible for the following:
 - Overall Coordination: Jane Covey -- 725-5601 coveybrown@gmail.com
 - Outreach and Volunteer Activities: TBD
 - Publicity/Media: Judith Stanton -- 833-5858, jws@me.com.
 - Mowing: TBD
 - Water Systems: Rob Roark 833-6537 manrob@myfairpoint.net
 - Portable Water Pumps : Jane Covey -- 725-5601 coveybrown@gmail.com
 - Website: TBD
 - Fence: David Chipman – 721-7522 medistrict1@yahoo.com

Bulletin Board:

Note: We have two bulletin boards – one near the garden gate for general notices. The second is inside the shed just beside the door, for volunteer and gardener notices, information and general communication. You may post notes, comments, garden tips and so on if you wish on the inside board.

Attachment A

Acceptable/Unacceptable Products

To maintain the organic integrity of the Harpswell Community Garden, do not use products that are listed in the "Unacceptable" column below:

Acceptable

- BT, M Track, MVP
- Messenger
- NEEM
- Insecticidal soaps
- Pyrethrum
- Summer Oil
- Seaweed/fish preparations
- Garlic, hot pepper, “kitchen” mixes
- PRO GRO fertilizer
- Diatomaceous earth
- Serenade
- Spinosad
- Sulfur
- Wood ash
- Manures (non carnivorous)
- Rock powders (lime, rock phosphate, greensand, granite dust)

Liquids may be applied by hand-held trigger spray bottle only

Unacceptable

- Miracle Gro, Miracid, Peters, etc.
- 5-10-5, 5-10-10 and variations
- Rotenone
- Sevin
- Diazonin
- Malathion
- Methoxychlor
- Pyrethrin
- Slug bait with metaldehyde
- Sabadilla
- Copper
- Chemical formulations

If you want to use a product that is not on either list, but you're unsure about it, please ask the Plot Coordinator.